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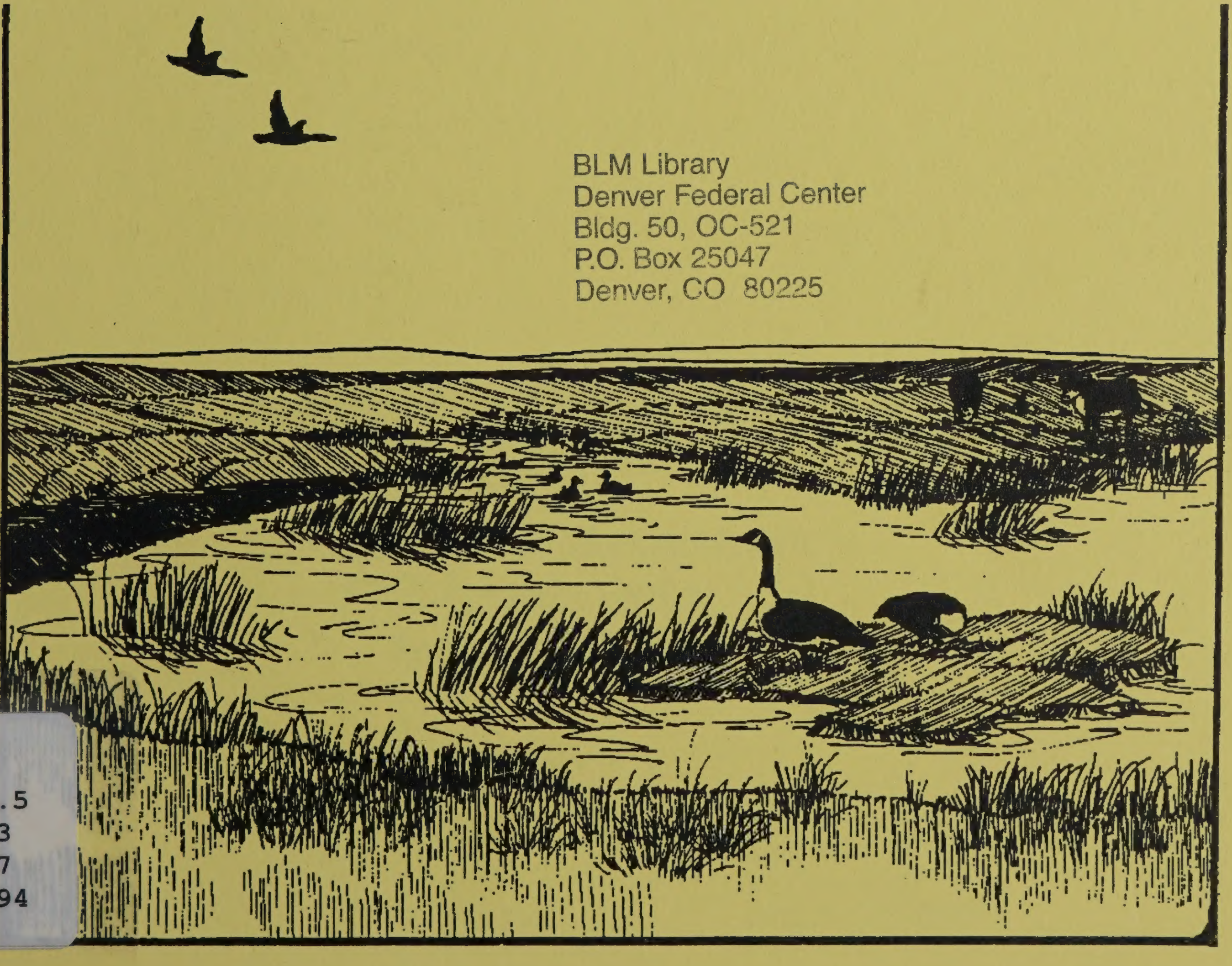
A Briefing Paper for the BLM Director

A Partnership between the BLM and Local Mining Companies to develop a Sustainable and Biologically Diverse Ecosystem in Northeastern Nevada



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Bureau of Land Management
Elko District Office
February 1994

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A Partnership Between the Bureau of Land Management and Local Mining Companies to develop a Sustainable and Biologically Diverse Ecosystem in Northeastern Nevada

The Elko District is one of the largest districts in the BLM outside of Alaska. Within the District boundaries are 7.4 million acres of public land. The Elko District has the most AUMs of grazing preference and has the highest level of gold production and largest discovered gold resource of any BLM district with approximately 60 million ounces of known gold resources. The District's 1,300 miles of riparian/stream habitat represents the largest concentration of riparian/stream habitat in Nevada as well as over half of the known critical habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This habitat includes the Marys River subbasin to the Humboldt River which contains the most significant metapopulation of Lahontan cutthroat trout. A metapopulation is one in which transfer of genetic material between trout in both the tributaries and the main channel of the stream can occur.

Nevada is unique by virtue of the process that was used for its state land selections in the 1860s. The State elected to take fewer acres in exchange for the right to choose the location of state lands. This allowed most of the State's valuable waters and riparian areas to be selected by the State and subsequently sold to private interests. Early railroad grants further complicated matters for consolidated federal management as a 40-mile wide checkerboard land pattern was created over the northern end of the state.

The Elko District has had an active land exchange program to consolidate holdings into more manageable units since the early 1980s, acquiring over 91,200 acres of land in fifteen separate exchanges to date. This was no small task in a county that has 62 per centpublic land and renowned as being the birthplace of the Sagebrush Rebellion, a movement to take federal lands for total state control. The District exchange program made use of innovative approaches in proponent funding to make advancements despite minimal budgets.

A high priority of the Elko District is to acquire crucial riparian habitat needed for the sustainability of sensitive species and other lands containing resource values consistent with the BLM's mission. Increased opportunities have been realized over the last 5 years as local mining companies have taken an interest in assisting the Elko District in their resource acquisition program.

With the financial backing and environmental commitment of local mining companies, the Elko District is attaining its goal to: consolidate land holdings, acquire and restore crucial riparian habitat, provide for the recovery of the threatened LCT and other sensitive species, and promote the development of sustainable and biologically diverse ecosystems.

GOLD MINES ON THE ELKO DISTRICT

If Nevada were a sovereign nation, it would be ranked as the world's fifth largest gold producer. In 1992, gold production in Nevada amounted to more than 60 per cent of the national total, with mines on the Elko District supplying approximately 33 per cent of the total for the nation. Mining companies directly employ nearly 4,500 workers. Secondary employment associated with mining accounts for about 14,400 jobs in Elko County.

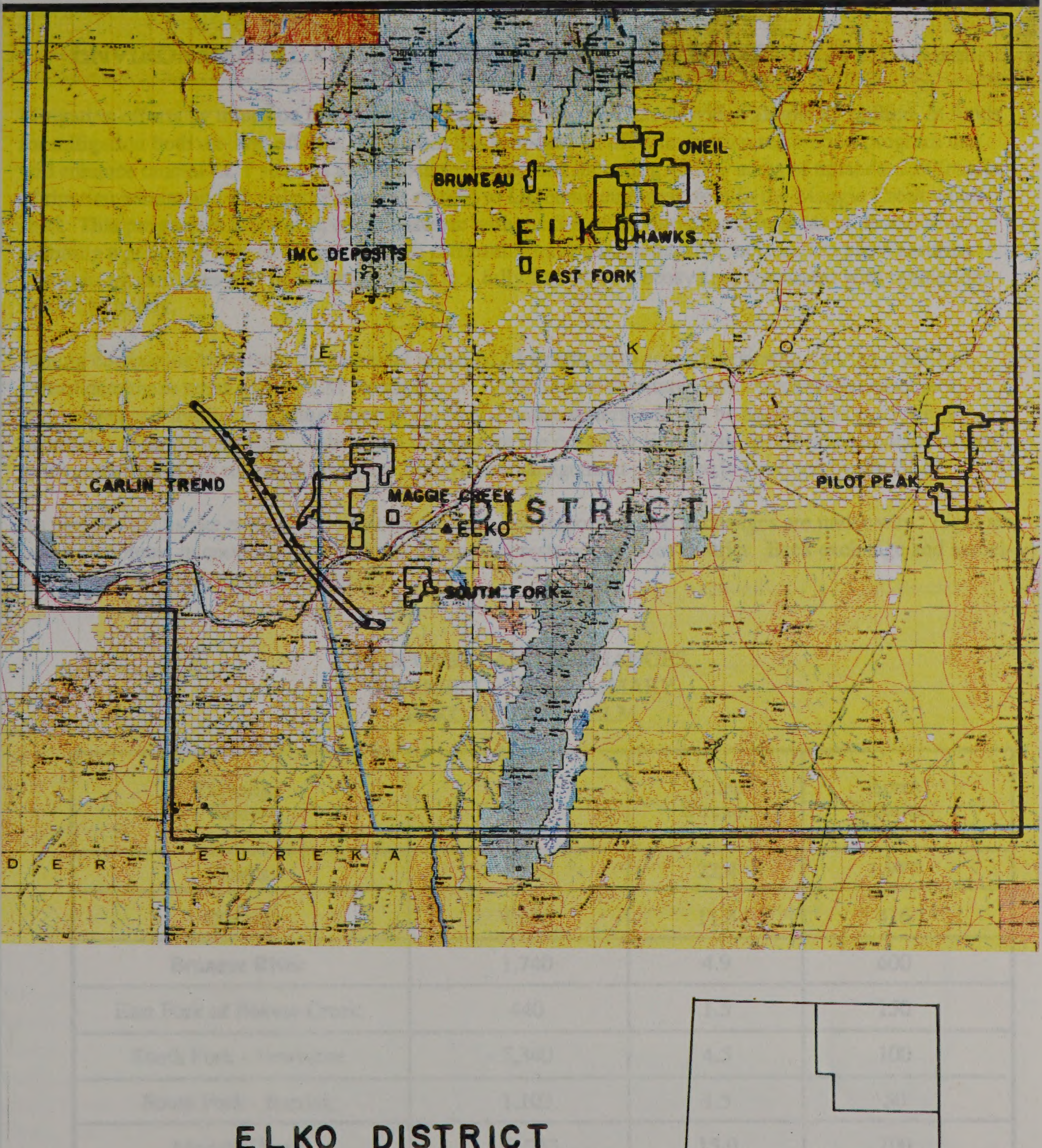
Presently within the Elko District, more than three million troy ounces of gold are produced annually from eleven active gold mining and milling operations. Seven of the eleven active gold mines are located within a 38-mile long, northwest-trending zone of gold mineralization, known as the Carlin Trend. The mines on the Carlin Trend produce 2.7 million troy ounces annually with Newmont Gold Company and Barrick Goldstrike Mine being the major gold producers.

Newmont Mining Corporation exploration geologists discovered the Carlin deposit in 1961; Carlin was the first low-grade, bulk-tonnage gold deposit ever identified in the world. Newmont Gold Company, a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, has been operating on the Carlin Trend continuously since 1964. Newmont currently operates five mines and processing facilities in the Carlin Trend producing 1.6 million ounces of gold in 1992 with 33 million ounces of known resources.

American Barrick Resources Corporation, locally operating as Barrick Goldstrike Mines, acquired their Carlin Trend property in 1987. Within the last seven years, Barrick has greatly expanded production with known resources on the property exceeding 21 million ounces. Barrick is currently producing from the Betze Deposit and has submitted a Plan of Operation to develop another deposit.

Independence Mining Company (Independence), a subsidiary of Minorco, operates two gold mines northeast of the Carlin Trend. Independence is a small operation; producing 319,000 ounces of gold in 1992.

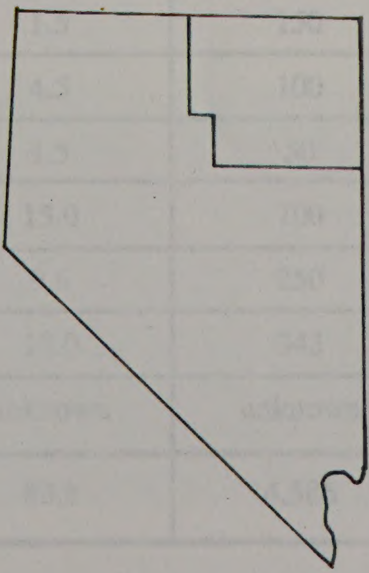
In total, mineral resource development on the District to date has disturbed about 16,000 acres, of which, 8,000 acres are public lands. This equates to approximately .1 per cent of the District.

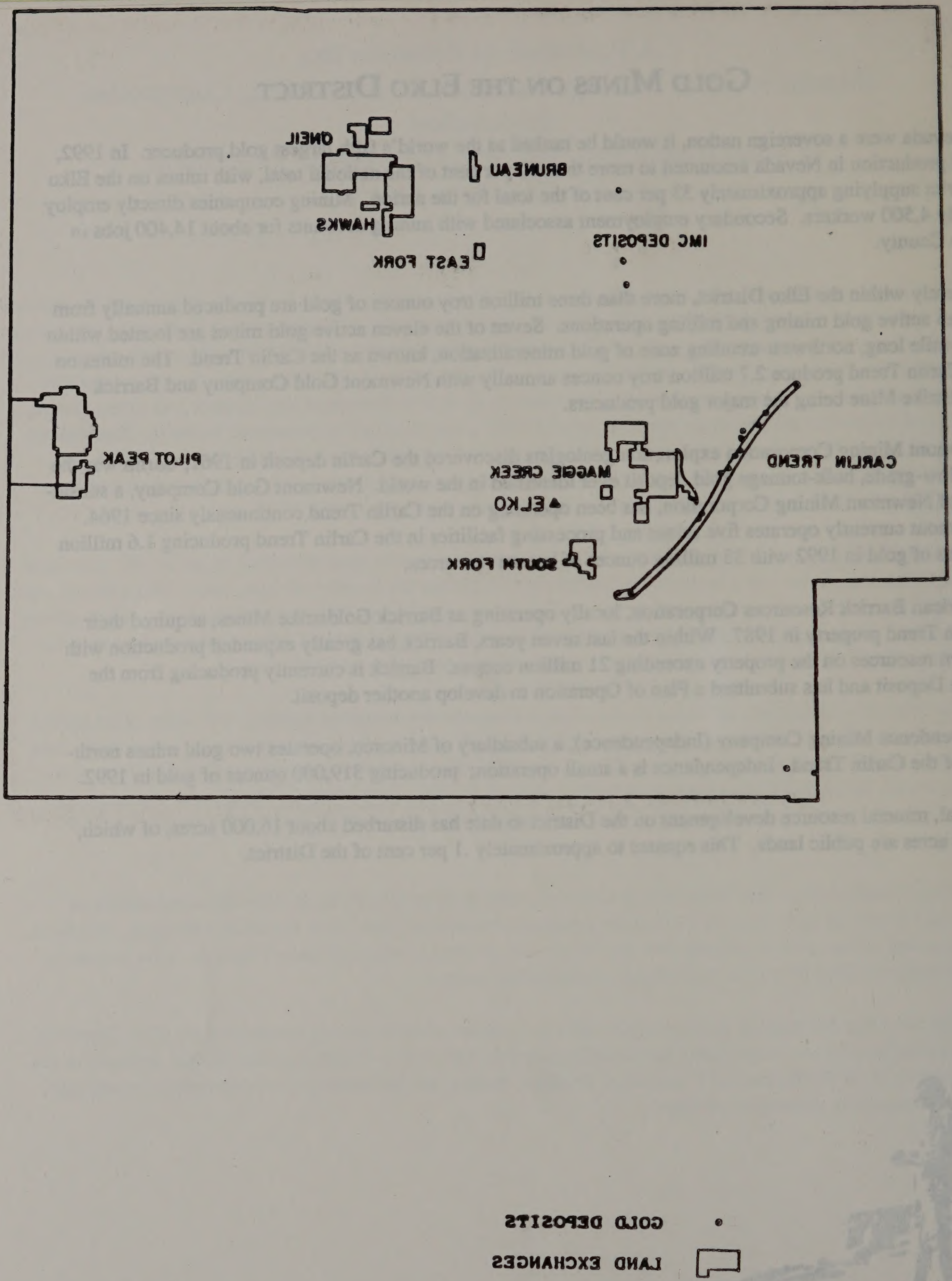


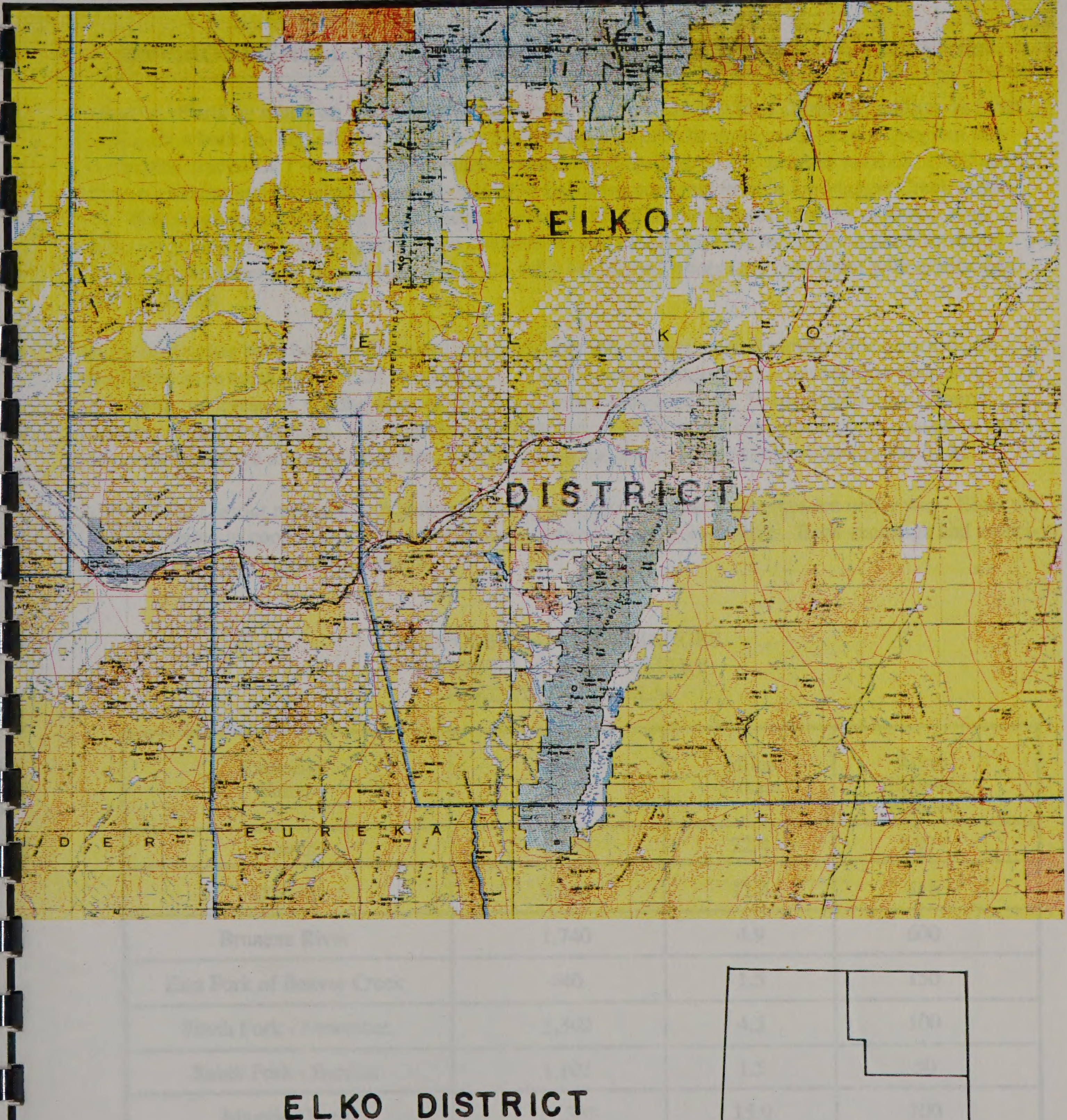
ELKO DISTRICT

NEVADA

- ● GOLD DEPOSITS
- ▭ LAND EXCHANGES




ONEIL
BRUNEAU
HAWKS
IMC DEPOSITS
EAST FORK
PILOT PEAK
MAGGIE CREEK
ELKO
CARLIN TREND
SOUTH FORK
GOLD DEPOSITS
LAND EXCHANGES



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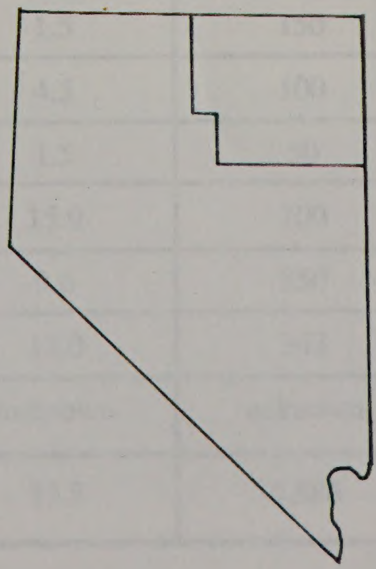


ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL MINING COMPANIES

Mitigation efforts by mines on the District are extensive. Barrick has provided almost $3 million in funds for mitigation both on- and off-site. Newmont has proposed an off-site riparian restoration program that will enhance crucial LCT streams and associated watershed including 40,000 acres of uplands, 2,000 acres of riparian habitat and 82 miles of streams critical to Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Maggie Creek watershed. This program is long-term, commensurate with the life of the anticipated impacts of dewatering, spanning a period of at least 57 years. Both companies have comprehensive reclamation plans assuring post-mining land uses will be an integral part to a fully functioning ecosystem consistent with regulations and BLM policy.

Mining companies have been instrumental to the BLM in efforts to acquire desirable riparian areas and consolidate these areas under BLM management. They have also entered into conservation easement agreements and livestock grazing agreements so that entire watersheds can be managed as ecosystems regardless of land ownership. Substantial funding for the on-going Elko District resource acquisition program comes from the mining companies. Ecosystem management guidance is provided by the BLM.

As part of the District resource acquisition program, ten important land exchanges are under way. Eight are being completed in cooperation with local mining interests on the Elko District. Each exchange and associated major benefit is summarized below.

PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGES
OFFERED LANDS SUMMARY
ELKO DISTRICT, BLM

Exchange Name	Total Acres	Miles Stream	Acres Riparian/ Wetland
Hawks	4,120	22.4	1,977
O'Neill	4,056	11.4	416
Bruneau River	1,740	4.9	600
East Fork of Beaver Creek	440	1.5	150
South Fork - Newmont	5,340	4.5	100
South Fork - Barrick	1,103	1.5	50
Maggie Creek	17,543	15.0	700
Rhoads	7,400	9.6	250
Pilot Peak	21,520	13.0	343
Elko County	7,000	unknown	unknown
TOTALS	70,262	83.8	4,586

HAWKS EXCHANGE

The Marys River Land Exchange, completed in 1991, was one of the early opportunities taken by local mining interests to give political support to the Elko District's endeavor to acquire critical resources. Through the Marys River Land Exchange, the BLM acquired over 51 miles of crucial LCT habitat on the Marys River and its tributaries and over 47,000 acres of associated watershed including 8,600 acres of riparian meadow. Following the exchange, the Elko District began implementing monitoring and management plans designed to enhance habitat throughout the watershed with contributed funding from mining interests. Although the majority of riverine habitat within the watershed became public land, some additional critically important habitat (spawning and rearing) of the threatened LCT remained in private ownership on a contiguous piece of Marys River called the Hawks Ranch.

Independence recently acquired the Hawks Ranch, which includes lands located within the viewshed of the Jarbidge Wilderness Area. Independence has proposed exchanging these lands with the BLM for public lands associated with their mining operation. Completion of this 4,120 acre exchange would place into public ownership an additional 22 miles of spawning, rearing and year-long habitat for LCT and almost 2,000 acres of meadows and other riparian habitat which supports a variety of wildlife. Consolidation of these lands would facilitate implementation of a comprehensive monitoring and ecosystem-based management plan. Since the private management on the balance of the river system, about 36 miles, has been in concert with adjacent public land objectives, it is not anticipated additional acquisitions would be necessary in the area to assure a thriving population of LCT.

Additional benefits from this action would be realized through the sale of the remainder of the Hawks Ranch to the adjoining rancher. This would reduce the possible local economic effects of losing a ranch. In addition, prior to the sale to the adjoining rancher, voluntary grazing reductions would be taken by Independence so that the 6,000 AUM grazing permit would be reduced to 2,000 AUMs. This would eliminate the need for future reductions for the adjoining rancher's present operation. Also as part of the transaction, the parties involved have agreed to conservation easements on specific stream channels which would protect fisheries values on the remaining private lands of the Hawks property and those of the adjoining landowner.

This portion of Marys River known as the "Red Field" contains occupied LCT habitat and would be acquired by the BLM in the Hawks Exchange.

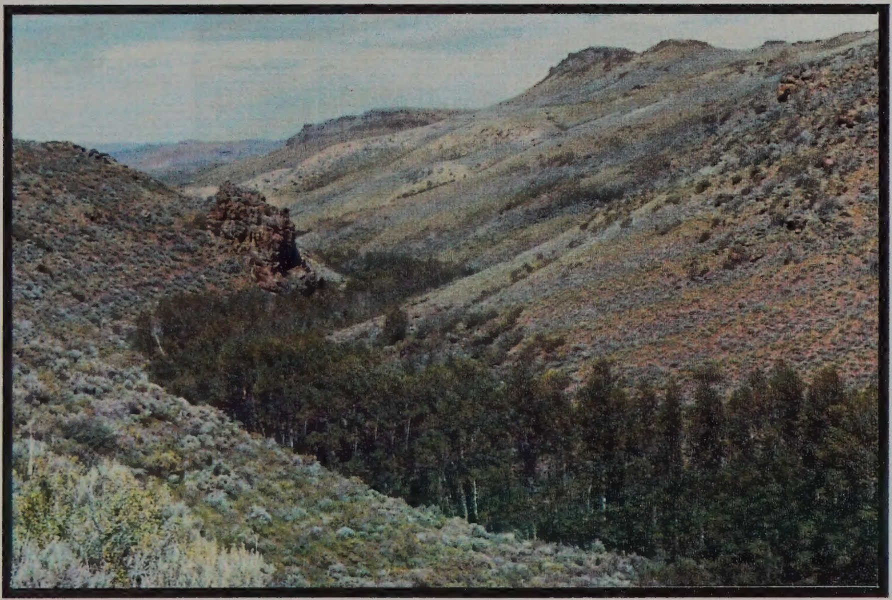
O'NEIL EXCHANGE

Located within the O'Neil Basin at the foothills of the Jarbidge Mountains, the O'Neil Allotment contains the northern-most tributary of the Marys River administered by the BLM. As part of the Elko District resource acquisition program an exchange has been negotiated with Bell Brand Ranches. The exchange involves approximately 4,060 acres of private land that are scattered inholdings throughout the otherwise uniformly solid blocked public land within the allotment.

As a result of the exchange, BLM would acquire 14 springs, 416 acres of riparian habitat, and 11.4 miles of stream. These streams support populations of native rainbow trout and provide recreational fishing opportunities. In addition 6.5 miles of these streams provide habitat for LCT. These areas are extremely valuable to wildlife in the basin, providing water, food, and cover to mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, elk and a variety of small mammal and bird species. Consolidation of the public lands would improve the BLM's ability to manage range, wildlife and riparian/aquatic resources, including the threatened LCT on an ecosystem basis.

The exchange has benefits for the private landowner as well. By consolidating the private holdings from numerous scattered parcels throughout the allotment to adjoin the existing private property around two of their ranches, should increase the long-term stability of the ranch.

Barrick will fund the BLM's share of this important exchange as part of its off-site mitigation program.



The East Fork of Deer Creek supports native fisheries and a variety of wildlife. Upon completion of the O'Neil exchange it would be managed solely by the BLM.

BRUNEAU RIVER EXCHANGE

The Bruneau River originates in Northeastern Nevada and eventually joins the Snake River in Idaho. More than 50 miles of the river flow through Nevada. The headwaters, including 800 acres of wetland meadow/riparian and 6.1 miles of stream, were part of the Marys River exchange completed in 1991. Newmont Gold Company is proposing to trade 1,740 acres of its Howard Ranch property, including 4.9 miles of the Bruneau River and its tributaries and approximately 600 acres of wetland meadow/riparian habitat to BLM in exchange for public land in the vicinity of its mining operations. Newmont acquired this portion of the Howard Ranch in 1990 for the purpose of trading the land to BLM in support of the BLM's efforts to improve management of the river system and to further interagency efforts to provide habitat for elk and other wildlife in the Bruneau River watershed.

Historically, the Bruneau River supported a thriving population of native redband trout and was once considered a trophy class fishery. However, only remnant populations of trout survive in limited portions of the river and its tributaries. Much of the Bruneau still has outstanding wetland values in the form of expansive wet meadows. These areas provide important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including species that are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act; the white-faced ibis and the California floater (a freshwater mussel).

Bruneau River Wetlands. These wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species.

EAST FORK OF BEAVER CREEK EXCHANGE

The East Fork of Beaver Creek, tributary to the North Fork of Humboldt River, lies 35 miles northwest of Elko. Newmont has proposed to exchange 440 acres of their private lands in this area, including 1.5 miles of the East Fork of Beaver Creek and approximately 150 acres of wetland/riparian meadows, for public lands adjacent to its mining operations.

The East Fork of Beaver Creek has been identified as a potential recovery site for LCT and includes about 17 miles of perennial stream. Although stream and riparian habitat conditions are currently poor, 19th century explorers describe Beaver Creek as a "clear trout filled stream." LCT were present up until at least the 1940s when local ranchers recall catching them from beaver dams. Changes in the current pattern of hot season grazing would allow for rapid recovery of this productive system and the reestablishment of LCT.

The exchange would result in a unique opportunity to manage more than 80 per cent (14 miles) of the East Fork of Beaver Creek. Plans are currently under way to manage the entire watershed, and increased public ownership of the stream would help to ensure restoration efforts are implemented.

East Fork Beaver Creek. Because it is so productive and responsive to changes in management practices, the East Fork of Beaver Creek has the potential to be restored as a trout stream.

SOUTH FORK EXCHANGE

The South Fork of the Humboldt River represents a unique, diverse ecosystem with a wide array of biological and cultural resources. The exchange area, which is less than 10 miles from Elko, is adjacent to Nevada's South Fork Reservoir State Park and lies within a BLM Special Recreation Management Area.

This exchange is actually two exchanges, including one involving Barrick and one involving Newmont. Both exchanges offer private lands along the South Fork of the Humboldt River in exchange for lands associated with the respective mining companies' operations. Under the proposed Barrick exchange, BLM would acquire 1,103 acres, including about 1.5 miles of stream and 50 acres of riparian habitat. Under the proposed Newmont exchange, BLM would acquire 5,340 acres, including 4.5 miles of stream and about 100 acres of riparian habitat.

Fifteen miles of rugged canyonlands along the South Fork, from the State Park to its confluence with the Humboldt River would be consolidated to BLM management upon completion of these exchanges. The canyon walls provide important habitat for a variety of raptors and bats, while caves within the cliffs were once used extensively by early man. The rocky sideslopes also provide habitat for mule deer, chukar partridge, bobcats and coyotes. Otters, beaver, and many species of waterfowl and passerine birds utilize the wetland/aquatic habitat associated with the river. In addition, freshwater mussels can be found buried in sandy substrates along the stream bottom. Although the South Fork of the Humboldt River no longer supports LCT, recreational fishing opportunities exist for rainbow trout. Trout stocked in the South Fork Reservoir drift downstream and can be caught by anglers before water temperatures become too warm in summer.

Habitat conditions are currently poor along most of the South Fork. As more of the river becomes public, changes in grazing management can be initiated which would greatly benefit the many forms of wildlife present. A healthy, well developed riparian zone would assist the BLM in achieving the Special Recreation Management Area objectives by improving the aesthetic qualities and recreational opportunities associated with the South Fork Canyon.

South Fork of the Humboldt River. The South Fork of the Humboldt River flows through a narrow, rocky canyon and provides recreational opportunities as well as habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species.

MAGGIE CREEK EXCHANGE

The Maggie Creek watershed contains one of the most productive and diverse aquatic ecosystems in Nevada. Populations of LCT within this stream and several of its tributaries have been targeted for recovery by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Maggie Creek Ranch is proposing to trade 17,543 acres, including almost 15 miles of perennial stream along Maggie and Susie creeks, 21 spring/seep complexes and approximately 700 acres of wetland/riparian habitat to BLM. Although the exchange would allow for consolidation of private property closer to the Maggie Creek Ranch, the primary purpose of the proposal is to facilitate the cooperative restoration of the Maggie and Susie creek ecosystems in conjunction with BLM and Newmont. In addition to offering lands for exchange along both streams, the ranch has also committed, through conservation easements, to manage its remaining private lands along Maggie Creek and its tributaries for the purpose of restoring the entire Maggie Creek watershed.

Maggie Creek and associated wetlands provides important habitat for a wide array of wildlife including several candidate species. Historically, Maggie Creek and several of its tributaries were excellent fisheries. However, deteriorated stream and riparian habitat conditions led to a reduction in both the abundance and distribution of LCT. The Elko District and the land owners in the area, Newmont and Maggie Creek Ranch, recognized the need to restore this once productive ecosystem and beginning in 1993, developed a comprehensive management plan for the entire watershed.

The Maggie Creek Watershed Restoration Project (mentioned earlier as the primary component to Newmont's Mitigation Plan submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process) is a partnership among Newmont, the Maggie Creek Ranch and the BLM to restore and enhance more than 100 miles of stream and wetland habitat along Maggie Creek and its tributaries through riparian fencing, livestock grazing management, conservation easements and other measures. Additional participation is being negotiated with other ranches (Rhoads and 26 Corporation) in the watershed. By these means, the project will create a showcase demonstration of the compatibility of mining, ranching, recreation, environmental and natural resource values on both private and public lands. Although most project costs will be borne by the private land owners, BLM will provide leadership for this cooperative effort.

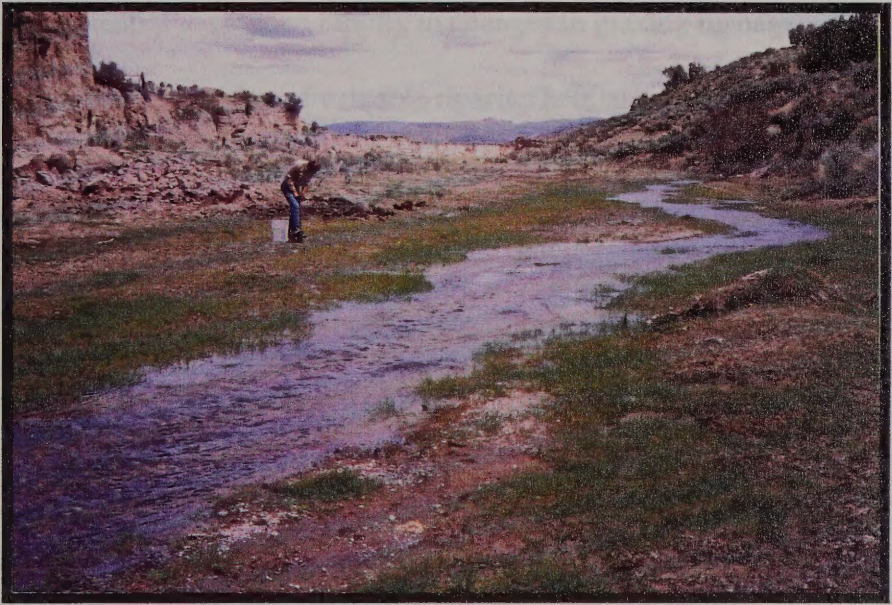
Susie Creek occurs outside the Maggie Creek watershed but is also an important tributary to the Humboldt River system. Like Maggie Creek, Susie Creek was once considered an important LCT fishery. Although the stream no longer supports trout, it is listed as a potential recovery site in the Draft LCT Recovery Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

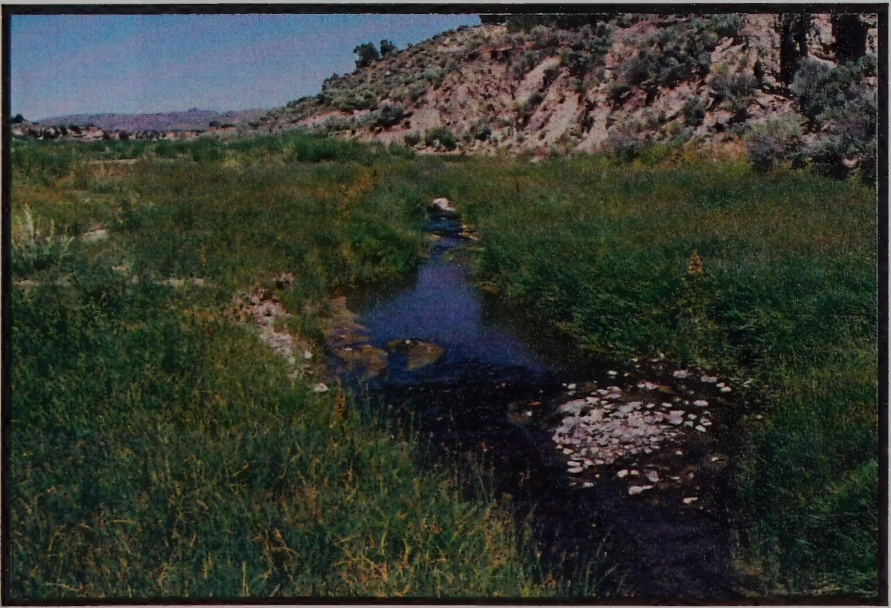
A cooperative effort between the BLM and Maggie Creek Ranch to restore stream and riparian habitat conditions along Susie Creek was initiated in 1990. Approximately five miles of the nearly 12 miles of stream included within the project area are owned by Maggie Creek Ranch. Over $100,000 (utilizing both public and private funds) has been spent to date on fencing, pipelines and cattleguards in an effort to improve livestock management and restore the aquatic ecosystem. It is hoped that Susie Creek may be suitable for the reintroduction of LCT within a few years.

The exchange proposed by Maggie Creek Ranch would complement projects currently under way to restore the Maggie and Susie creek area. Virtually all of Maggie Creek and significant portions of Susie Creek are privately owned. Increased public ownership of these important areas will help to ensure restoration efforts continue.

Although much of Maggie Creek is in poor condition, portions of the stream owned by Maggie Creek Ranch are characterized by abundant willow cover, deep pools and grassy well-vegetated stream banks. These areas support the only remaining populations of LCT within Maggie Creek.

Prior to the cooperative restoration effort between BLM and Maggie Creek Ranch, stream and riparian habitat conditions were poor on Susie Creek. Stream flow was wide and shallow, streamside vegetation was lacking and the stream bottom was covered with fine sediments.





Improved livestock management resulted in excellent improvement in the stream and riparian habitat conditions, shown above, in less than two full growing seasons. Note the narrowing and deepening of the stream channel, formation of stable stream banks and development of pool-riffle habitat.

RHOADS EXCHANGE

The Tuscarora Mountains are located approximately 40 miles northwest of Elko and contain the headwaters of several important LCT streams, including tributaries to Maggie Creek. Dean and Sharon Rhoads, northeastern Nevada ranchers, have proposed to trade approximately 7,400 acres in the Tuscarora Mountains in an effort to consolidate private lands closer to their base operations. Under the proposed exchange, BLM would acquire 9.6 miles of perennial stream, including 3.6 miles of occupied LCT habitat, 9 spring/seep complexes and approximately 250 acres of wetland/riparian habitat.

The offered lands support a diverse mixture of riparian plant communities and provide habitat conditions for many species of wildlife, including LCT. At the higher elevations, north facing slopes contain extensive stands of aspen, while wet meadows occur along foothill drainages. Woody riparian plants such as willow, chokecherry, alder and cottonwood occur along perennial stream courses. Some of the more common forms of wildlife in the area include mule deer, raptors and numerous species of birds and small mammals. In addition, LCT inhabit the headwaters of several streams included in the proposal. These streams, Beaver Creek and two of its tributaries, Toro Canyon and Williams Canyon Creeks, support populations of LCT identified for recovery by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Condition of most offered riparian habitats is poor, however, these areas still have the potential to respond rapidly to changes in grazing management.

The proposed exchange would result in public acquisition of valuable riparian habitat and an opportunity for the BLM to restore the entire Beaver Creek watershed (which includes over 40 miles of stream) in conjunction with projects recently initiated on the lower and middle reaches. The majority land owners in downstream areas, Maggie Creek Ranch and Western States Minerals, have recently entered into agreements with BLM to restore stream and riparian conditions along Beaver Creek through fencing, plantings, conservation easements and changes in livestock grazing systems. Condition of headwaters influences recovery of downstream areas and increased public ownership of the upper elevations of Beaver Creek will help to ensure the complete restoration of this important stream system. In addition, public ownership of additional riparian habitat in the Tuscarora Mountains will result in improved management of these areas as well.

The headwaters of Beaver Creek, an important LCT stream, are part of the Rhoads Exchange. Beaver Creek and its tributaries support populations of LCT targeted for recovery by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PILOT PEAK EXCHANGE

Pilot Peak lies on the Nevada/Utah state line and once served as an important landmark to early settlers. J.R. Simplot has proposed to exchange 21,520 acres of private land on Pilot Peak for land in the adjacent valley and foothills. Eight hundred additional acres on Pilot Peak would be acquired by the land exchange proposed by Elko County. Upon completion of the J.R. Simplot and Elko County land exchanges some private parcels would still remain on Pilot Peak. Nevertheless completion of this exchange would accomplish important public objectives.

Pilot Peak, an area of scenic beauty, rises 5,800 feet above the valley floor, overlooking the Great Salt Lake to the east and Pilot Valley to the west. It also contains important wildlife, wilderness, and cultural values, including habitat that is critical for the survival of several important wildlife species. Pilot Peak currently provides habitat for approximately 400 elk and a small population of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep which were reestablished in the Pilot Range in 1987. Because of its steep terrain, livestock grazing in the Pilot Range has been minimal, and as a result the area contains some of the most pristine piñon-juniper and riparian habitats in northeastern Nevada. Pilot Peak would be an excellent candidate for further wilderness study except for the checkerboard public and private land ownership pattern.

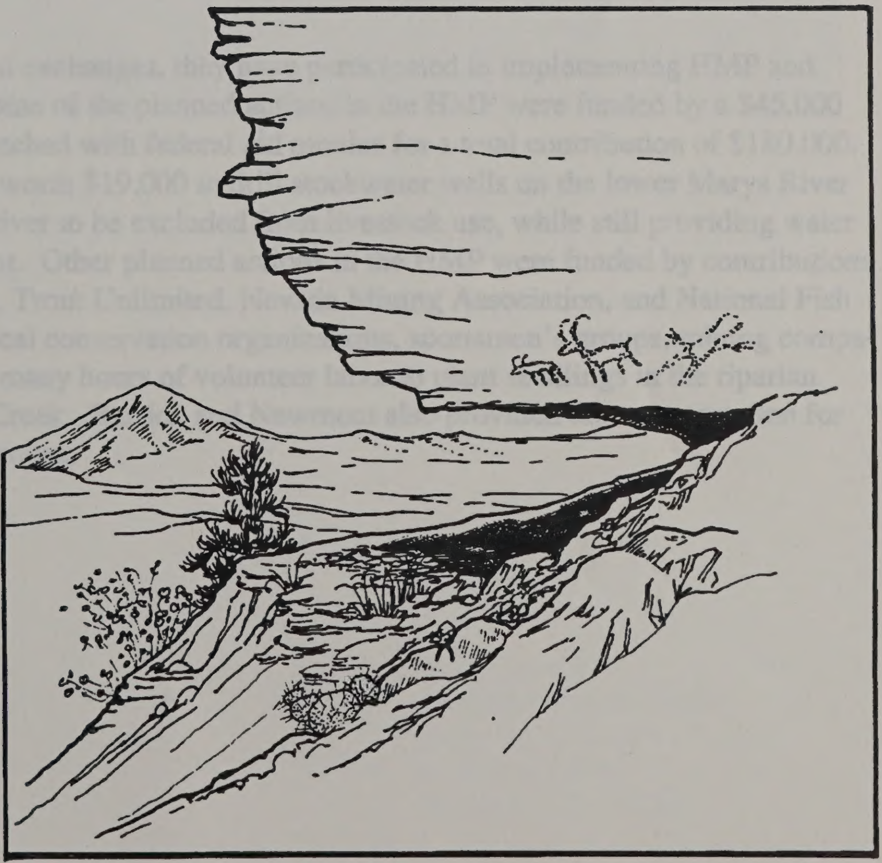
Pilot Peak's cultural importance dates back to the early emigrants that crossed northeastern Nevada. It was named by John C. Fremont in 1845 for its importance as a landmark. Kit Carson used the peak as a guiding point to cross the Great Salt Lake Desert. The Reed-Donner Party passed by Pilot Peak believing that the trail was a shortcut route to California.

From the early 1940s to the middle of the 1950s, several caves and rockshelters were excavated in or near the Pilot Range. Information about these caves was published in a University of Utah anthropological paper, which remains one of the most important archaeological works ever published. One of the caves, Raven Cave, lies on private land in the Nevada portion of the Pilot Range and would come under the administration of the BLM as a result of the proposed Simplot land exchange.

Pilot Peak, an area of scenic beauty, rises 5,800 feet above the valley floor, overlooking the Great Salt Lake to the east and Pilot Valley to the west.

ELKO COUNTY EXCHANGE

The Elko County Commissioners have recently proposed a county-wide land exchange that would allow them to relocate and consolidate their isolated lands throughout the county to several communities. Currently the exchange involves more than 3,300 parcels, covering more than 7,000 acres. Such an exchange would provide the county a low cost alternative to buying land at fair market value for lands needed for community expansion. The county's lands are predominantly lands that were taken for delinquent taxes. While many of the county parcels are scattered and intermingled with relatively low resource value land, some of the parcels, such as an 800 acre parcel on Pilot Peak (discussed in the previous section), would help the BLM meet its high priority long-term land management objectives.



MARYS RIVER PROJECT

The Marys River watershed, located in northeastern Nevada, is a 520 square-mile watershed which drains into the Humboldt River. Historically, the Marys River supported a thriving population of native LCT. However, due in large part to improper livestock management practices, trout habitat throughout the river system has deteriorated, leaving only a small percentage of the system with suitable habitat and only remnant populations of cutthroat trout. The management objective of the Marys River Project is to restore LCT habitat to allow for increased trout numbers and distribution. This will be accomplished through implementation of a long-term plan for monitoring and management of the Marys River watershed.

The BLM's Marys River Riparian/Aquatic Habitat Management Plan (HMP), completed in 1987, outlined actions to restore the riparian/aquatic ecosystem of the Marys River drainage. One of the highest priority planned actions identified in the Marys River HMP was to acquire administrative control of the private land portions of the Marys River and its tributaries, either through conservation easements, exchange of use agreements, land exchanges, or outright purchases.

In 1991, a land exchange was completed between Olympic Management, Inc. and the BLM. As a result of this exchange, the Elko District acquired over 65 miles of stream, approximately 6,700 acre feet of water rights on the Marys River; 60 springs and associated water rights; 8,600 acres of wet meadows, marshes and willows; about 50 miles of public access, and 932 acres under conservation easement for the purpose of riparian/stream habitat protection, recreation, and study on 3.3 miles of the Marys River. Completion of the Hawks and O'Neil Exchanges would put the vast majority of the watershed and streams into public ownership.

Not only have local mines facilitated land exchanges, they have participated in implementing HMP and Marys River Project planned actions. Some of the planned actions in the HMP were funded by a $45,000 contribution from Barrick which was matched with federal aid monies for a total contribution of $180,000. Newmont donated well drilling services worth $19,000 to drill stockwater wells on the lower Marys River in 1993. These wells will allow for the river to be excluded from livestock use, while still providing water to cattle on the adjacent grazing allotment. Other planned actions in the HMP were funded by contributions from the American Forestry Association, Trout Unlimited, Nevada Mining Association, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In addition, local conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups, mining companies, and youth groups have contributed many hours of volunteer labor to plant seedlings in the riparian zones along Marys River and Chimney Creek. Barrick and Newmont also provided the transportation for volunteers to the Marys River planting project.

The Marys River is over 100 miles long with the majority of the stream being administered by the Elko District. The river provides year-round habitat for the LCT and is key to the recovery of the species.

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